CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Project for Bio-gas Development (NPBD) has been under implemenation in all the State/Union Territories, including Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) The project has helped rural families to meet their cooking fuel needs by recycling of organic wastes. It also provides enriched manure, and healthy and hygienic conditions in households.

(c) A total of 87 biogas plants have been set up in the State upto 31.3.1991.

Natural Gas for Maharashtra Power Stations

1105. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have asked the Union Government for Natural gas to set up gas based power stations in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An additional allocation of 1.5 million cubic metres per day has been made to MSEB raising its total allocation to 4.5 million cu. m. per day.

Dispute between Indian Ship owners and ONGC

1105-A. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a dispute going on between Indian Ship Owners and the ONGC on offshore vessel hiring rates;

(b) whether Government are aware that foreign shippers are taking advantage of the situation while Indian vessels are totally idle and this is draining our valuable foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to solve the tangle and ensure better utilisation of indigenous shipping capacity particularly in view of the recent acute foreign exchange crisis?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The Indian Ship Owners have been demanding a higher operating cost in respect of the OSVs hired by ONGC under cost plus formula, particularly in view of the recent wage settlements. There has also been some difference of opinion between the Ship Owners and the ONGC regarding implementation of certain contract terms.

(b) and (c) While action has already been initiated to resolve the above issues, these have not led to any advantage to foreign companies nor resulted in any outgo of foreign exchange. As on date, ONGC have engaged all the available Indian flag OSVs.

Superior quality coal for ceramic Industries

1105-B. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation from Gujarat Government for supplying the superior quality of coal for ceramic industries have received. and

(b) if so, what are the details of action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Several representations have been received for supply of adequate quantities of